The NASA Glenn Research Center Macintosh User Group

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Well, it's been a while, but hey, we're back! To kick off the return of our MUG meetings, Apple Computer is hosting another Lunch and Learn on October 23, 2001. Pizza and soda are being supplied, so tell your friends to join us.

The meeting starts at 11:00 am, and pizza will be delivered between 11:30 and noon, in the TDC in the RAC building.

Mike Mills, from Apple, will be here discussing porting Unix to OS X. That should prove to be an interesting discussion, so please let all your unix friends and coworkers know. Bring your questions as well as your appetites!

We need your input if the NASA MUG is to survive. The newsletter is a great vehicle to share ideas, tips and tricks, neat stuff you do with your mac at work and at home, and in general, a great way to learn what's out there in macland. Please don't be shy. Send your articles to **Lisa Madden** to be included in future newsletters.

To go along with our newsletter, do not forget the MUG listserve. If you are *NOT* on this email list, please let Ward Souders know, and he'll make sure you are included in future mailings. If you have questions on how to use specific programs, what legacy hardware works with which new macintosh system, items for sale, or anything you think might be of interest to other mac users at Glenn, this is the easiest way to reach the greatest number of users.

I would like to hear from people on lab who are using macs to do some serious scientific work, not just to make PowerPoint presentations or write emails. I know there are macs at Glenn running equipment. Tell us about it, okay?

Apple Store Opens in Ohio

Melissa McGuire

A new Apple store opened its door in Columbus, Ohio. I was hoping to go and check it out but was not able to coordinate that this weekend. Since a store has opened up so close to us, and since there has been no job postings for store managers for a Cleveland store on the Apple jobs pages, it's a good bet that the Columbus store is going to be the closest thing for us. Luckily, Columbus is only a couple of hours away from Cleveland, so in case you are wanting to go out for a leisurely drive on a weekend, here's the scoop on the new store.

Directions from the Apple page
http://www.apple.com/retail/easton/

Address:
Easton Town Center
4070 The Strand East
Columbus, OH 43219
(614) 478-5592

Store Hours:
Monday - Thursday
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Between 400-500 people showed up for the opening. The new mall also houses stores like Victoria's Secret, Nordstroms and many other high end stores that opened today — Apple was the only one with a line. "

Purchasing items from the MUG store:

Have you surfed to the "applemugstore" lately? The list is long on the specials page, so we won't go into all the highlights, suffice it to say we think it's worth a look.

In addition to that cool stuff, they've added a whole new category called "blowouts." You just go in, select the category (printers, USB, displays, etc.) you're interested in, and you're presented with a list of close-out products, usually used products that have been taken in trade, or just plain close-out buys.

Current Mug Store Passwords:

8/1/01 - 10/31/01: UserID: apple / Password: care

Call them at 1-800-689-8191 to make your best deal.

http://www.applemugstore.com

—from **Editorial***, page 1*

And for those who are new to the mac, or who would just like a little assistance in how the mac works in the Glenn IDE environment, Lisa Maddenhas put together a 66 page Macintosh User Manual. The pdf version of this manual is available either directly from Lisa, or is up on Freeware/Shareware for you to go get on your own.

—Lisa Madden, Editor

http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/
WWW/AdvisoryGroups/MUG/
or
http://GMUG.grc.nasa.gov

Learning how to write Applescripts.

http://www.raingod.com/raingod/resources/Systems/Macintosh/Software/AppleScripts/

http://www.ResExcellence.com/applescripts/index.shtml
(lots of good links from this page)

http://www.apple.com/applescript
(unsurprisingly!)

AppleFederalStore

Apple Federal Employee Purchase Program

http://applefederal.apple.com/store/
Only disclaimer is that this program is not open to contractors.

DIMM First Aid

by: Melissa McGuire

http://www.mactcp.org.nz/dimmfirstaid.html
Average customer rating: 5 out of 5 stars (according to Verstiontracker.com)

Some of you may have upgraded to OS 9 or OS X at home, and may have found that your RAM doesn't work. Apparently Apple's firmware updates that check/update the hardware for both installs are very picky about RAM meeting certain quality standards. The end result is the user, who has what has been deemed 'bad RAM', performs the install of an update to their firmware, and ends up having much less RAM then they think.

Try running DIMM First Aid that should tell if the RAM is up to date.
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=10415&db=mac

A gentleman named Glenn Anderson wrote the above little utility to check whether the RAM installed in a system met whatever specifications Apple needs, according to their Apple developer notes, for it's firmware updates. As of this article, the current version, v1.1, was released May 30, 2001. It is freeware. Versiontracker.com is the best place to check for it. Either follow the link above, or go there directly and search on 'DIMM.'

It's a very small utility, at 129k in size, and could save you a lot of hassles in lost RAM and head scratching. If your RAM does fail the test, you can return it to wherever you purchased it from. Just check the manufacuters return policies. A list of some policies can be found here: http://www.ramseeker.com/firmware.shtml

G4 Altevec Engine

from Melissa McGuire....

Just a bit of FYI on some numerical abilities of the G4 Altivec engine. It has been said that the altavec is single precision only and leads to some loss in number crunching efficiency. Apparently this may not be entirely true. I send this link our as an FYI for those developing codes to be run on Macs.

From this website: <http://developer.apple.com/hardware/ve/acgresearch.html>

Vector implementation of multiprecision arithmetic

Brief abstract: An implementation of G4 multiprecision arithmetic is described. We show how vector arithmetic can be used to provide extremely fast multiplication for any operand size, with division and other operations following suit. Performance measurements are reported.

Download paper

http://developer.apple.com/hardware/ve/pdf/G4multiprecision.pdf

Sample/demo code to accompany the multiprecision paper is available for download from the Sample Code site for registered Apple Developers.

http://developer.apple.com/samplecode/Sample_Code/Devices_and_Hardware/Velocity_Engine.htm

Now available, a Mac OSX-specific multiprecision package. This package has a large-integer library, together with two buildable command-line executables, one for simple large-integer testing and the other for general-purpose factorization. The package is suitable for cryptographic experiments.

Download package

http://developer.apple.com/hardware/ve/downloads/multiprecisionsample.tar

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Shut Down Tip

from Dawn Jenkins....

Here's a possible "tip" I was thinking about putting on the mailing list, but it might be better in the newsletter. I was thinking about it, then I wondered if everyone in the world knows this and I am just a little slow. I "discovered" this recently when I kept having "Login" shut down on me.

Sometimes when the computer "freezes up", (almost never, of course!) and nothing works to the point where a warm reboot seems necessary, by pushing Command+Control+Power, I now try pushing the power button to see if the little menu comes up that asks if you want to Restart, Sleep, Cancel or Shutdown. It almost always does! This operation gives a "normal" shutdown, rather than the one that verifies the hard drive because the programs have been left hanging.

Mac Equipment Garage Sale

contact Bob Dimond if interested.....

I have Several Macintosh systems and many accessories for sale. While these units are hardly high-end anymore, they are still ideal for word processing, personal databases, keeping in touch via email, casual web browsing, and many other uses.

All units are presumed to be in good condition and can be demonstrated to the buyer before purchase.

Send inquiries to sailbad_d_sinner@hotmail.com or call 216-849-8468

POWERBOOK 5300CS
16MB RAM, 750MB HD, Floppy, Battery AC $220.00 OBO
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POWERBOOK DUO 230s
Duo 230 w 12/120/14.4 external modem/Battery/AC - $85.00* OBO
Duo 230 w 18/120/14.4 internal modem/Battery/AC - $94.00* OBO

*A Duo Dock I with color monitor, keyboard, and pointing device can be added for $50.00 more making the Duo a complete desktop system, with color video, increased input capabilities and SCSI expansion.

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POWERBOOK 1xx Series
PB 140 with 8/160/9600 internal modem /Battery/AC - $80.00 OBO
PB 170 with 8/120/9600 internal modem /Battery/AC - $85.00 OBO
PB 150 with 16/120/14.4 internal Modem /Battery/AC NR? $65.00 OBO

MACINTOSH DESKTOP SYSTEMS

Quadra 610 w 16/160/Ethernet CPU/Monitor/Keyboard - The system comes with the following:

750MB external Drive
1.2GB External Drive
2GB drive and 4X CDROM in an External case.
SCSI scanner
EXTERNAL 100MB SCSI Zip Drive with quite a few disks with evaluation software.
2x2x6 External SCSI CD-R/CD-RW burner works great!
VGA to NTSC converter for displaying to a TV
56Kpbs External Modem

Asking $250 OBO for this turnkey system.   Will negotiate on components.

Used Mac Price Guide

October 19, 2001
by Melisssa McGuire

Looking to buy a used Mac, and want to know what a fair price might be? Here are some sites that might be useful in the hunt. I have not verified all of these, but pass them along for your information. The listing below is a small survey of places to go to find prices on Used Macs.

Open begging here: Feel free to write articles for future newsletters with your experiences on any or all of the items below. Send along your additions to the listing. We can include the list in our GMUG web pages as a resource for other folks. We can always use articles. Why not pass along what you've learned to other Mac users in the lab community?

* - eBay (completed auctions only)—Probably as good as any, though not 'official' buy/sell prices; can take a fair amount of time to dig around.

* - www.UCE.com (United Computer Exchange)— They have click-on PC and Mac Appraisers. Often they are unavailable. Your Millage may vary

* - EveryMac.com—Very complete for Mac stuff, with specs and estimated current price range. How authoritative are the prices?

* - ACE (American Computer Exchange)—They have appraisal software, either on-line or downloadable, but they charge for it. Take your chances.

* - TechTracker (confusing, unintuitive, type generally too small to read on my 17" ViewSonic);

* - BCOEX ...Boston Computer Exchange—has ongoing auctions

* - Bluebook.com (quotes: $3.99 per item)

* - PowerMax.com (dealer, new and used; OK for retail prices);D£P('D,†Computer ExcBfle (www.usedcomputerexchange.com)—has 'Evaluators' for PCs and Macs, and is free.

Mac Troubleshooting web site from Herb Schilling....

http://cuckoo.jmu.edu/helpdesk/utils/macintosh/boot2.htm

Solutions to networking PCs/Macs/Linux boxes

October 19, 2001
Melissa McGuire

There are several suggestions out there on creating home networks
One of the email digests I subscribe to had the following rack and stad
just as I got them from the digest with a few edits. They are not the or
will be coming as OS X is more fully developed and used. Feel free to
tions as you find them.

Some Helpful Websites:

MacWindows   http://www.macwindows.com/
Three Macs and a Printer   http://www.threemac.com
The Quick and Dirty Network for Macs and PCs http://www.kan.org/networking/quicknet.html
Connectings Two Macs with a Serial Cable
       http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dbl0www1/Well_connected_Mac/serialguide/serial.html
Networking two macs with a Standard Printer Cable
       http://w3.trib.com/~dwood/printcablenetwork.html
HomePC Network — PC to Mac network overview
       http://www.homepcnetwork.com/index.htm?pcmacovr.htm

Some Networking Solutions:

1.) DOWNgrade the Windows computer from Windows ME to Windows 98 and use TSSTalk
or PC MacLAN which apparently work very well with Win98.
              http://www.miramarsys.com/products/
2.) Get rid of the PC and just use VPC (Virtual PC)
              http://www.connectix.com/products/vpc4m.html
3.) Upgrade to Windows2000 which has AppleTalk built in.
4.) Upgrade to OS X and use Samba.   http://www.apple.com/macosx/
5.) Use DAVE on the Macintoshes, or set up one Mac as a file-sharing computer running
Dave. http://www.thursby.com/products/dave31offer.html
6.) Use a Linux box as a go-between (Mac to Windows).
7.) Turn on web-sharing and share a folder over the internet. Files could be downloaded by
control-clicking or right-clicking the file and choosing where to save it.
8.) Run an FTP server on the Windows or Mac machines, and use a client such as Fetch or
Windows built in FTP to retrieve files.
9.) Cancel all development for the PC, boycott Bill Gates, and declare that all software will
ONLY run on the Mac.
10.) Timbuktu Pro 2000 has built in file-share capabilities (available for both Windows and
Macintosh)
              http://www.netopia.com/software/products/tb2/win/index.html
              http://www.netopia.com/software/products/tb2/mac/

Updates of Interest

BBEdit 6.1.2+ (Update - 10/09/2001)
popular HTML & text editing tool
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=603&db=mac

Desktop Resetter 2.7.1 (Shareware - 10/09/2001)
restore position/size of desktop icons/windows if moved
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=1194&db=mac

DupFinder 1.2.1 (Shareware - 10/09/2001)
easily remove duplicate files
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=12083&db=mac

WorldTime Applet 2.6.5 (Freeware - 10/09/2001)
Java clock to display the time for 8 locations
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=10635&db=mac

Miles Manager 1.0 (Shareware - 10/09/2001)
manage & report on AAdvantage, frequent flyer points
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=12150&db=mac

Dantz Retrospect 4.3 driver update 2.3 (Update - 10/09/2001)
for their backup software
http://www.versiontracker.com/moreinfo.fcgi?id=1123&db=mac

VPN and OS X

by Melissa McGuire

Some of us have RAS accounts, and might be moving toward a VPN account (see our internal GMUG page for details and links to the internal security pages that explain how to get those accounts to work from home.) <http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/WWW/AdvisoryGroups/MUG/GRCinfo.html>

THe current client has/had issues running under OS X. Either way, it is only OS 9 native and not OS X, and might not have plans to be so. I am still checking on this.

But, an article I ran across this morning mentions another company working on a VPN client for cross-platforms. I do not know if this means OS X, but since they say they are going to be supporting Unix, and since OS X is based on the BSD unix kernal, well, I am drawing some conclusions.

Here's the article: <http://maccentral.macworld.com/news/0109/24.contivity.php>

Contivity VPN offers unified support for Mac OS, others
Peter Cohen, pcohen@maccentral.com
September x, 2001 10:40 am ET

Nortel Networks <http://www.nortelnetworks.com/> said today that it's poised to deliver the industry's first unified Virtual Private Network (VPN) platform with support for multiple operating systems, including Windows, Mac OS, Linux, Solaris, IBM-AIX and HP-UX. The VPN platform is called Contivity.

Virtual Private Networks have become popular for corporations that want their remote users to be able to connect securely to the company's own network using the Internet. VPNs utilize encryption and other security measures to make sure only authorized users can access the network.

Nortel said that Contivity incorporates a full, unified feature set across each platform, requiring no VPN gateway upgrades. This enables seamless integration of virtually all remote users, according to the company.

Nortel Networks Vice President Scott McFeely said that Contivity VPN is a direct response to customer feedback. "In many companies, individual users with a Macintosh or UNIX operating system are excluded from simple, easy-to-use remote access to secure corporate networks," said McFeely.

The client software for Macs is already available. Nortel expects Contivity for UNIX to be available by year-end.